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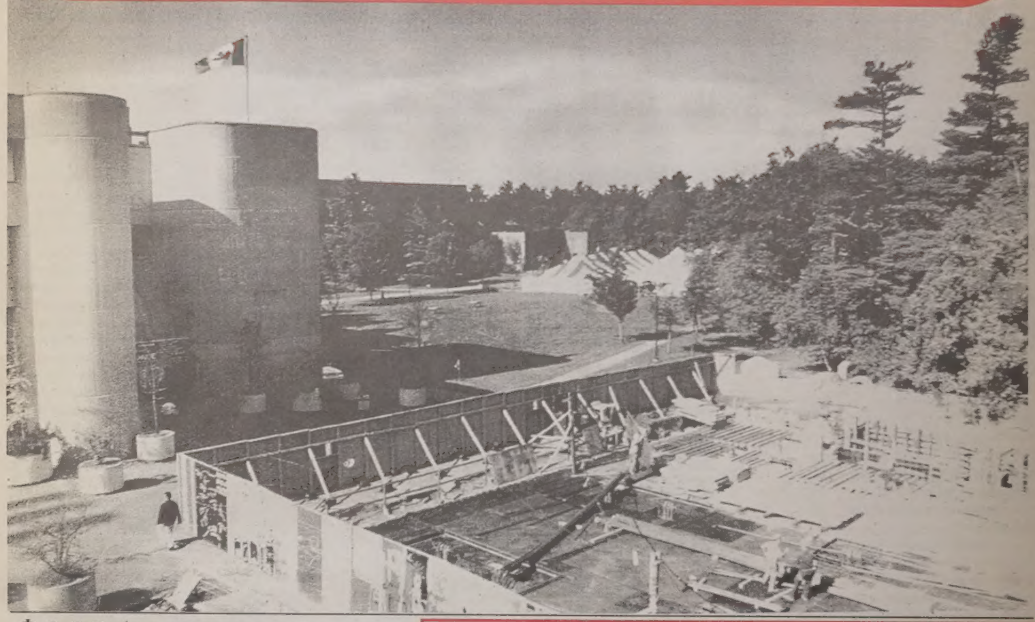
Volume 18, Issue 3

THE UNDERGROUND

www.scar.utoronto.ca/homes/underground/ Tuesday, September 22, 1998



A WORK IN PROGRESS: THE UNDERGROUND PARKING FACILITY
photo by Justin Porter

$1 MILLION FOR ADMIN. PARKING LOT

Tharmila Apputhurai
Contributor

For four months now, a gaping pit has welcomed visitors to the University of Toronto at Scarborough; unfortunately, it doesn't seem as if it will part company from us any time soon.

The 'pit' is part of a $1 million construction project that is designed to provide the University with an underground parking garage for its fleet of vehicles. As the Director of Administration, Patrick Phillips, explains "It is a parking lot [for] academic vehicles."

A fire that occured 5 years ago necessitated this construction. On September 29, 1993, a barn owned by the college in the lower valley burned to the ground. At that time, it was used to store research equipment as well as college vehicles. According to Phillips, with the barn now gone, the college is in sore need of a replacement facility.

The funding for this project is coming from the insurance payment for the loss of the barn. "$1 million is coming from the Insurance Company to build the underground storage garage," says Phillips.

The construction was originally to be completed by the beginning of this month, but due to a strike by construction workers earlier this summer the project has been delayed. However, Phillips expects that despite this setback, the project should be completed by mid-October.

NEW REGISTRAR TAKES ROYAL ROAD TO UTS

Liam Mitchell
News Editor

Last Wednesday, senior administrators and student leaders gathered to welcome a new addition to the University of Toronto at Scarborough.

Both Don MacLellan and the new position he assumes are new to this college. MacLellan will be the Director of Recruitment and Registrar, a job that has been redesigned to encompass more of the student experience. Reporting to the Associate Vice Principal - Students, Tom Nowers, the change in job description helps to bring Registerial Services under the 'student services umbrella'.

"It just makes sense," explains MacLellan, "We see this happening more and more in the United States and at other universities in Canada". The aim, he states, is to "provide students support from the moment they express interest until they cross the stage at convocation".

MacLellan, who until recently was the Registrar at Royal Roads University in British Columbia, comes highly recommended. At the reception, Nowers read an e-mail he had received earlier in the day from one of

Continued on Page 3..

INNOVATIVE DESIGN REVITALIZES UNSIGHTLY CAFETERIA

Kevin Jones
Contributor

After two and a half years of discussion and a number of complaints and suggestions, the renovation of the R-Wing cafeteria is finally nearing completion. The brightly coloured walls, track lighting and abstract bulletin structures deliver a museum style atmosphere to the once institutional setting.

The new cafeteria: If it wasn't broken, why did we fix it?

Upon observing the changes to the cafeteria, one's first impression might be that these attractive renovations are long overdue. However, the new designs have provoked a mixed and somewhat concerned response from longtime students at the Scarborough campus.

One of more prominent questions on the minds of students pertains to the issue of cost. Many want to know where the funding for the restoration is coming from. Others expressed the feeling that these changes, while attractive and appreciated, were unnecessary.

"When you go to school, you *expect* the cafeteria to be ugly and the food to be bad," says Scott Gordan, a student who frequents the cafeteria. Others, who say that it really wasn't that bad before and go on to refer to the recent tuition hikes, repeated this sentiment.

Peter Smith, the Manager of Food and Beverages Services at the University, quickly dispels the notion that students will be footing the bill for the renovations. "Of the nearly $70,000 worth of renovations, $50,000 will come from the annual budget of Food and Beverage Services." Smith revealed that $8,000 was also received from the Council of Student Services, as about one-third of the cafeteria space has been constructed as a potential meeting area for club functions. Along with the allocation of the area, clubs can expect the installation of overhead computer connections.

Concerning the need for such changes, Smith states that "…there was a demand for these changes," and that "…voting was conducted within many different councils" before the renovation process began.

The cafeteria will be open outside of food service hours so that students can use the space for studying. The renovations are still not fully completed. New furniture will be installed over the coming weeks.

NEWS

WHAT A DIFFERENCE 1/2 A YEAR MAKES!

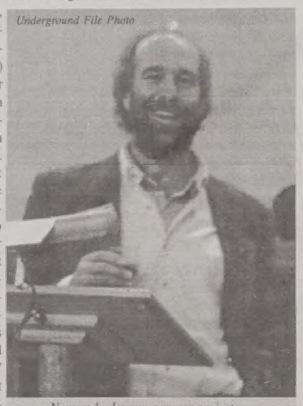
Liam Mitchell
News Editor

By most standards, Tom Nowers would still be 'the new guy'. Arriving at the University of Toronto at Scarborough just 6 months ago, most people would be trying to assess the situation, forming committees and getting feedback. Nowers has not had the time. Six months into his term, College Registrar Karen McLeister resigned. With the University system and its painfully slow hiring process, someone was needed to fill the position until a new individual could be found. The decision was made that Nowers should undertake the responsibilities.

"I didn't want to have to take this whole new job just six months after I started," explains Nowers. "I had things I wanted to accomplish, but I saw the opportunity to make a huge improvement to student life within this position".

Gathering together a committee, Nowers established a new job description for the position and joined the Registrar and Recruitment offices with student affairs. "We want to gather a group together who can ensure that students [at Scarborough] receive support from Orientation to Convocation," said Nowers. He then set about, at record pace, conducting a search for the best candidate and had him in place for the start of the new school term.

As Nowers points out, that was just one of his summer projects. One can add coordinating Orientation week to the list as well. Joining him in O-week planning was the Scarborough Campus Students' Council (SCSC), the Student Village Council (SVC), Scarborough College Athletic Association (SCAA) as well as Director of Athletics, Jaan Laniste and Housing Manager Fran Wdowczky. Nowers gushes at the success of the events. Most notably, he points to the Faculty dinner held on the first night of orientation. "A lot of people expressed concern. No one was sure if it would work, but it did," says Nowers. "It was great experience for everyone, students and faculty. It also demonstrated a lot of commitment from the faculty who showed up with only two days notice".



Underground File Photo

Nowers had many summer projects

These six months have been a trying time for Nowers, but he remains undeterred. "It's been a productive six months," he says with a grin. Among the main ideas floating around in his head, Nowers is quick to make mention of his flag proposal. "They've started calling me 'Flag Man'," notes Nowers. He is sincere about his idea though, which simply is to have a flag created for Scarborough College. "I don't know if people will salute it, but it's important to have symbols like this to point to".

This is just part of a re-creation of the Scarborough image which Nowers is embarking on. He would like to see the bookstore moved up closer to the front of the college. He would like to see a monument created to welcome visitors to the University of Toronto at Scarborough. Yet most importantly, he would like to see the Academic Resource Centre (ARC) built.

"We will be going to the students this year and ask[ing] them to contribute to this project," says Nowers adding, "We are hoping to raise $1 million dollars through a student levy".

Nowers points out that this College has a strong tradition of student leadership in the building of new space on campus. "Back in 1984, the year's class raised $400,000 to build the library we now have. That was huge amount of money then!"

"To get this project off the ground, we are going to need student support or we are sunk," says Nowers, but continues "Once we show that students, faculty and staff are onboard, then just wait to see how much money comes in from private donors".

The dream of a student centre does not die with the creation of ARC, Nowers states. "We can possible dove-tail these two projects," he states. "But to say we need a student centre more then the ARC, I don't think so." Nowers believes that students deserve both, but funding can permit only the construction of one of those projects and academics must take priority.

While he has often been refereed to as the "student advocate", Nowers sees his role of pushing others to become student advocates. Part of that is getting Principal and Dean Paul Thompson more visible among students and involved in their issues. "If I'm successful, then it won't be Tom Nowers who is head of student affairs, but Paul Thompson," says Nowers.

Nowers work to convert administrators and faculty into student advocates will be tested when he brings forward a proposal to introduce a 'University 101' course. Aimed at providing new students with research, writing and study skills, it would by a half-year credited course. "70% of American Colleges have these courses, and there are studies which prove that there is a big increase in student success at those [universities] who offer such a program," says Nowers. He points out that both the University of Prince Edward Island and the University of Manitoba offer these classes. "Faculty should be right behind this. It isn't Remedial 101, but Success 101," he states and adds, "we tend to assume that students have these skills and that is completely unreasonable. They have never been required to learn these skills before coming here".

While he bemoans the extreme amount of hours he has been putting in over the last six months, Nowers is enjoying himself. "This College has tremendous opportunities, and things are really starting to change" although he feels that "...it would be nice if I could work in a holiday, but no such luck".

MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY SENATE VOTES ON HONORARY DEGREE FOR PM

Allyson Grace and Sean Ryan
CUP- ST. JOHN'S

Officials at Memorial University are neither confirming nor denying reports that the university will award Prime Minister Jean Chretien an honorary degree.

The university's senate recently voted on the question, CBC Radio reported Sept. 11. But their decision is under wraps because of a strict policy mandating votes about honorary degrees be conducted behind closed doors.

Still, speculation is mounting about the decision. While university senators cannot comment on the vote because of the confidentiality policy, staff and students have begun voicing their opinions about what many believe was a 'yes' vote.

Mark Graesser, a political science professor and former senator, says it's unusual to offer a degree to a politician still in office.

To do so, he suggests, indicates a political motivation. "It just strikes me as a symbolic gesture that could almost be interpreted as an exchange," Graesser said.

If the university has decided to award Chretien an honorary degree, it will likely present it to him at next spring's convocation to coincide with the dual 50th anniversaries of Newfoundland joining Canada and the founding of Memorial University, Graesser said.

The exchange would involve Chretien visiting the province and university in acknowledgment of those anniversaries in return for the honorary degree and resulting public attention, he said.

The possibility that the university has decided to offer the Prime Minister an honorary degree has sparked criticism from some students and faculty who oppose the stance on education issues taken by the federal Liberals.

Noreen Golfman, an English professor at Memorial University, says while she has no knowledge of any such decision, she doesn't agree with awarding an honorary degree to any sitting politicians.

"The Prime Minister's track record as a politician and a leader, who is endowed with the responsibility of making sure that education is high on the government's agenda, has not proved to be an inspiration to those of us who are either educators or students," Golfman said.

She also criticized the possibility Chretien would be honored in light of recent controversy over Ottawa's involvement in RCMP treatment of student protestors at last year's APEC summit. "(Chretien) has demonstrated nothing but arrogance and contempt during and after this whole B.C. and (University of British Columbia) campus incident."

Dale Kirby, president of the Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Students, says he agrees Chretien doesn't deserve an honorary degree.

"Certainly it's a bit ridiculous," Kirby said. "The whole idea is a bit out to lunch. I mean, what have (the Liberals) done? They have cut $2.29-billion from post-secondary education alone."

Awarding Chretien a degree would be a slap in the face of students who have amassed huge debt loads since the Prime Minister came to power, he added.

Officials with the Prime Minister's Office said they're not aware of an offer of an honorary degree from Memorial University.

call for nominations
SCARBOROUGH COLLEGE COUNCIL AND ITS COMMITTEES 1998 BY-ELECTIONS

Nominations are invited for candidates to fill student vacancies on Scarborough College Council and its two Committees for the 1998/99 session

SCARBOROUGH COLLEGE COUNCIL
Undergraduate students: 40 vacancies

ACADEMIC COMMITTEE
Undergraduate students: 2 vacancies

PLANNING & BUDGET COMMITTEE
Undergraduate students: 2 vacancies

For the purpose of elections to Council and its committees, undergraduate students are defined as those students registered at Univeristy of Toronto at Scarborough in at least one half-course in the Winter Session or who are registered in a co-operative programme.

Nominations open 18 September, 1998

Election information is available in the Secretariat's Office (S415/S416A), and Students' Council Office (R3042).

NEWS

U of T Benefits from Gay MP Visit

Sven Robinson Honorary Guest at Hart House Debate

Charles Mitchell
Contributor

The Hart House hosted Canada's first openly gay Member of Parliament, Sven Robinson, on Wednesday September 16th. Robinson spoke on a Hart House Debate Committee's discussion on same sex benefits. The MP reaffirmed his stance on the issue of equal rights for gays and lesbians in Canada, focussing on the issue of gay benefits.

"Some of the benefits we're talking about shouldn't necessarily be based solely on your attraction to another person," says Robinson, stating equal access to healthcare and partner benefits should be synonymous with a civilized society.

The MP spoke about the Charter of Rights and Freedoms outlawing discrimination based on homosexuality, and at the same time the supreme court ruling that homosexuals do face discrimination. In 1993, Canada's highest court struck down a challenge that would have extended pension benefits to John Nesbitt, partner of Jim Egan. The court decided that even though Nesbitt deserved to share in his spouse's benefits the tax laws did not allow same sex inclusion. Robinson made reference to this decision and called for changes in Canadian laws.

"It's about time that the federal government, in fact, considered reviewing all federal legislation--immigration, Canada Pension Plan and a whole range of other statutes," proclaimed the openly gay parliamentary member.

Robinson criticized a system, which paid for a civil servant to move his cat to his new job in Indonesia but would not pay to relocate his gay spouse. He further praised Ontario for being the only province that allows same sex couples the right to adopt children. The MP poked fun at admitted adulterer American President Bill Clinton for signing a measure that restricts marriage in the United States to opposite sex couples

"Talk about irony of ironies; this bill was signed by President of the United States Bill Clinton through a statement that reinforced the importance of respectable traditional family values," Robinson opined, to uproarious laughter from the packed room of nearly one-hundred.

In British Columbia Robinson had to fight a similar bill introduced through the Attorney General's office which would have established the same criteria in that province.

Robinson ended his speech with a story of a twelve year old boy, Joshua, who wrote him a letter in 1994 and told the MP he cried because he could not see his other dad. It seems that the boy's father's gay spouse of ten years had developed cancer. On his death bed the man's family, who had had not talked to him in twenty years, stepped in and forbade his partner and Joshua from seeing the dying man. After he died both were barred from his funeral and weren't privy to where he's buried.

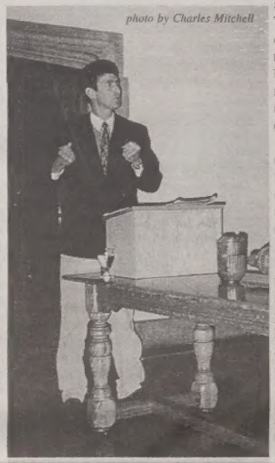


photo by Charles Mitchell

Sven Robinson fights the system.

While Robinson spoke eloquently of his crusade for gay rights and specifically gay benefits, the debate itself encompassed both sides of the issue.

The dialogue began with Michael Shore a third-year law student who opened with the statement that there should be nothing that a heterosexual should be able to do that a homosexual cannot. Shore conceded that at times popular consent might not always be in favor with the laws. This could be the case when it comes to same sex rights. Like the civil rights movement in the United States, the government must step in and impose itself upon the larger population in order to establish equality.

"Every time you actively deny, every day or week or month that you continue to deny legal equality, you are doing violence to that particular community," said Shore.

According to a quoted University of Calgary report, gay teens are ten times more likely to attempt suicide than heterosexual youth. The debate singled out a Financial Times column for an example of the tolerance of repeated homophobic comments. The paper's viewpoint would be accompanied with widespread rioting and protests if it said the same things about any other minority group. Shore asserted that discrimination against gays can only be stopped through legal measures.

"The only way really of doing it is by changing laws, and then even if you're not changing public perceptions and public morality, you would at least be giving gays and lesbians a public platform which they can use to refute those claims," the law student added.

The pro gay benefit side went on further to assert that gay benefits are fundamental to these rights. Heterosexual couples in this country are entitled to benefits of their partners while homosexuals are denied those same benefits to which they themselves contribute.

The nay side did not negate gay rights, but disagreed on the definition of equality and laws exacting that equality. Second year Victoria College student Adian Johnson took the stance that gay marriage and gay benefits equates to heterosexual imitation. The nays asserted that marriage should remain something for those of the opposite sex.

"What we're saying here is that gays and lesbians do not necessarily want equality as set out by the heterosexual community," Johnson said, stating a difference in norms and mores in the gay and straight world.

Referring back to the civil rights movement the nays opined that many negative perceptions of blacks changed not through legislation but because of people's changing attitudes. Thusly, change will happen to gays only with growing enlightenment of the heterosexual population.

After the debate audience member voted on the most convincing argument. The ayes took the prize seventy-eight to eleven.

Registrar Comes Highly Recommended

Continued from page 1

MacLellan's colleagues at Royal Roads. It stated: "Quite simply, Don MacLellan is the best University administrator I have every had the honor to work with."

This high praise gives MacLellan a lot to live up to. In welcoming him to the college, Principal and Dean Paul Thompson was quick to point that out. Yet MacLellan seems unfazed by the challenge. "This position creates a lot of opportunity for me to improve the quality of the student experience, and it may be a challenge, but I am not entering it alone," said MacLellan, referring to the staff in the Registrar and Recruitment offices. He notes that he will be relying heavily on their advice in the coming months to improve the services provided out of his office.

One of the steps which he hopes will improve the delivery of services is the new Repository of Student Information (ROSI). While in the works long before his arrival, MacLellan has now been presented with the daunting task of implementing it. "Over the next few months we are going to need to close our offices to provide our staff with an opportunity to learn the new system," said MacLellan. Furthermore, he recognizes the challenge this presents to the staff. "Some of [the employees] have been working with the old system since it was first brought in in the 1970s. It's going to take some time to get used to the new software and begin getting back to our regular pace."

One of the major benefits of this new system is that students can access some of the services via the Internet. States MacLellan. "We are all hoping that this will diminish the long lines at the beginning of every school term."

Over the next few months, MacLellan will be working closely with UofT's new Director of Recruitment Florence Silver. Silver herself just joined the University last Monday. MacLellan is unconcerned about any perceived rivalry between St. George and the suburban campuses. He believes that both sell themselves. "Students have their own styles. Some may like the hustle and bustle of downtown, so they'll go to St. George. Other are looking for a little more serenity. We all provide the services though of the 5th largest university in North America." He adds that Silver has expressed her desire to present all of the campuses in an equal manner.

There are number of changes in the works for the registrar. According to Nowers, the possibility of instituting a levy for registerial services is under discussion. Under this arrangement, all students would pay a one-time fee for all the services the Registrar's office provides including transcripts and student card replacement.

Over the next few weeks, MacLellan has pledged to spend a lot of time wandering around the college in an attempt to get some answers which further his goal. "Our goal at student affairs, which my office will have big role in, is to provide a personalized education."

Blanchard Resigns

Nadia Alam
Staff

John Blanchard's resignation is in and Uof T at Scarborough is now without a Director of Advancement.

Blanchard was heavily involved with fundraising, communications and development for the College. The Office of Advancement is also involved with the alumni and is responsible for Scan, the alumni newsletter. Blanchard's latest project is commonly referred to as "The Campaign".

The Campaign is an ambitious $11 million undertaking with three goals: ARC, Arts in a Pluralist Society and International Developmental Studies.

Its primary objective is the Academic Resource Center (ARC), a complete multimedia center adjacent to the library. Plans are underway for a 400-seat lecture theatre which is fully wired for electronic presentations, two new computer labs, and study carrels with full network hookups for laptops. For those without laptops, the Office of Advancement is initiating a motion to allow students to sign out laptops from the center. The plan is to merge the library with the computer, graphics and photography centers, forming, in essence, a multimedia village. The external wall, where the librarians' offices are currently located, will be torn down to make way for the ARC.

"We're aiming to have the funds to do this in place by the year 2000, and to break ground by the end of that year," stated Kim Tobin, Senior Development Officer and alumni of the Arts Administration program.

In addition, the Campaign is providing funding for an endowed chair for Arts in a Pluralist Society, a new program that will be offered at the College. A part of the $11 million will also be allocated to International Developmental Studies, which is heavily subsidized at the moment.

Blanchard has chosen to return to Ketchum Canada, a fundraising company for whom he has already worked in the past. At the present, he is involved with directing Queen's University's capital campaign.

Any concerns about the effect Blanchard's resignation will have on The Campaign are dispelled by a resolute Tobin who stated, "We shouldn't have any problems; we have a full department here. Katherine Rogalska, also an Arts Management Graduate, is a Scarborough alumni who works here. As is Heidi Calder, who has worked for UofT downtown for a number of years. John has left behind a solid department with people who have lots of experience."

Tobin is confident that the funding will be sustained through external support and not student tuition. Sources she intends to tap are corporations, individuals, and annual fundraisers.

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Editorial Assistants: Vacant

Letters Policy

All Letters to the Editor must be typed or printed and delivered to The Underground before noon, Friday. The length of the letters must be restricted to 200 words or less. The student's name and ID number must be included. Submission does not guarantee use.

Letters will be published on the basis of relevance and availability of space. The Editorial Board of The Underground reserves the right not to accept letters containing statements which could be construed as malicious or libelous. Material submitted will be edited at the discretion of the Board.

Opinions expressed in unsolicited material such as Letters to the Editor or commentary articles do not necessarily represent the views of The Underground, its staff members or the publisher. By submission, authors implicitly warrant that no liability for any loss suffered through typographic errors, headlines or editing of the copy will be attached to The Underground, its Editorial Board or the publisher.

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BEWARE THE DOORMAT

To begin at the beginning: He was handcrafted by a six-year old Brazilian girl who received a cup of water for her efforts while her work sold for thousands under the guise of authentic tribal art. He adored his golden stitching, his crimson trim, the pattern that resembled a winking eye. He was beautiful, and would be the best doormat ever, as far as he was concerned.

One month ago, he was rolled, bound, and shipped, rather roughly, to the city, where he was delicately placed on the smooth hardwood floor of a ritzy, metropolitan hotel's front foyer. He was the first thing that people saw as they entered. But, after a few days, he noticed some disturbing ocurrences. Some men would endlessly rub their leather-soled shoes on his back. A woman ashed her cigarette on him, he was stabbed by a penthouse key that was carelessly dropped, and one morning he awoke to the burn of scalding coffee falling from the chubby hand of a fat, little, pinstriped man. It was about all a doormat could take, and, for the first time, he could feel his bottom left corner twitch and curl.

His self-esteem levels collapsed and he developed a bad personality. (When a child intentionally walked around him, he snapped at the stubby legs with his curled corner and sent the toddler whimpering to his mother.) One night, he overheard two bellboys discussing his future, and he learned that he would soon be disposed of. "No one likes that ugly rag," one said. "It just takes up space, and the pattern is crap," replied the other.

Enough was enough. The doormat had to find some way to attract attention again, and a week later, in a moment of pure brilliance, he hatched his scheme. Monday morning, a bank manager from Philidelphia, Mr. Tobias, entered the hotel, stopped directly before the doormat, and studied the hotel's gorgeous interior. The hanging chandelier, the polished bannisters, and the marble registration desk all met with his distinguished approval. (Incidentally, the doormat did not even receive a casual glance.) Mr. Tobias straightened his shoulders and stepped forward. Without hesitation, the doormat ripped himself from underneath the bank manager, who, in turn, fell to the ground, hit his head, and died instantly.

A week later, the doormat returned from the dry cleaners. He was happy to have all those blood stains removed.

IN THE DARK...

The lights flicker and are extinguished, and the purest black surrounds. In the dark, lurk all of our fears: angry spirits, ugly monsters, cackling witches, thirsty vampires, spiders, snakes, dogs, bumblebees, elevators, airplanes, anarchy, intimacy, first dates, open mouth kisses, homosexuals, heterosexuals, lawyers, doctors, presidents, rapists, convicts, patients, the elderly, wheelchairs, big tests, report cards, drunken fathers, cocaine-sniffing mothers, pierced nipples, long hair, child molesters, talk-show hosts, choices, abortions, bloodied knives, smoking guns, different colours, foreigners, free thinkers, soldiers, evolution, nuclear war, the homeless, car crashes, deadlines, the apocalyspe, new ideas, technology, business, bankruptcy, fanatics, televangelists, lies, truth, disease, death, drugs, religion, a god, a devil, human touch.

The lights appear
and all our fear
becomes fascination.

Tim Soucie

WARNING: Writing for The Underground will not cause harm during pregnancy

Orientation Coverage was Ignorant

Dear Editor,

On behalf of the Student Village Council, I would like to thank everyone who helped make the 1998 Residence Orientation a resounding success. The Residence Orientation was enjoyed by over 140 students and has been commended by frosh and administration alike as being an organized and well-run event. This success was achieved with the co-operation of the other residence life groups (the Dons and Links), SCAA, SCSC and other student service providers. Evening events included both a non-alcoholic Bonfire Party/ Coffee Night in the village Centre and a Casino Pub Night in The Attic. Our dedicated volunteers did everything from making posters and hanging decorations to cooking bacon and eggs for breakfast! The goal of our orientation was to welcome first year residents and show them that their new home is a close-knit community where many groups work together to meet the needs of students. The Underground's disregard of the Residence Orientation ("Orientation Big Success" September 15) was an insult to the hardworking organizers, volunteers and participants of this event. Not only did the author skip over the Residence Orientation as though it were a non-event, he didn't even bother to research it enough to find out that the organization that ran it is called STUDENT Village Council not Scarborough Village Council.

Amparo Jardine
President, Student Village Council

The Underground
Photography Meeting
and Workshop

Wednesday, September 23rd, 1998 from 1-2 pm.
Meet in the Underground Office R-2203E

OPINION/EDITORIAL

A note from a News Editor in his twilight days...

Liam Mitchell
News Editor

After what has seemed like a lifetime, but in truth has only been 7 issues, I take my leave as News Editor. Stepping up to the challenge is Charles Mitchell - AGAIN! As I exit stage left, Charles and the other members of the masthead are left with a dilemma which has become increasingly urgent as of late.

The dilemma, simply put, is at what point does The Underground have to put its autonomy ahead of informing students of services on this campus? This problem arises because in the push by college services to make students aware of what they offer, they are turning to The Underground to have their stories published. They offer to 'write their own stories' or provide 'fictional problems' for our writers to base their articles on.

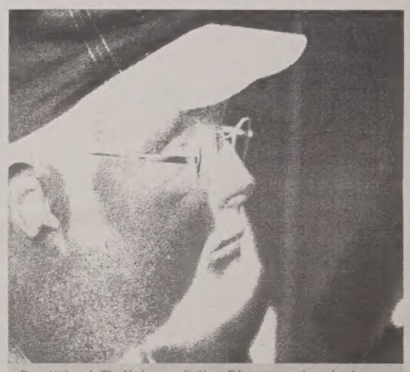
While I fully recognize that the intentions of these college administrators are noble, it strikes at the very heart of what The Underground should be. That is, a publication for students, by students which can critically evaluate the services that are provided to us and cover the real news on this campus.

As a group that receives funds directly from students, it is my belief that The Underground has a responsibility to provide more to our readers then simply 'our perspective' on student life at this college. However, there is a very dangerous trap that lies within. By serving up administration propaganda as bonafide facts, we lose our credibility.

This dilemma is not limited to college administration alone though. Many student groups offer to provide 'a column' about the work their club or council does. In the same way that we need to critically evaluate the administration, we need to assess the 'value' of the student groups on this campus.

However, it works both ways. If The Underground is to be a centre of critical evaluation on this campus, then you, our reader, must be our evaluator. I encourage you to provide your feedback on the coverage we provide or the coverage we don't.

In the end, I feel that The Underground must retain its autonomy and not provide the free advertising in articles because select services don't want to pay for them. Instead these services should pool their resources and create their own publication which will do far more to inform the students then a 300 word article in this paper. Providing honest reports of events and critical discussions on services and incidents fulfills our responsibilities. The onus is, and must remain, on these groups to inform students and not pass the buck to The Underground.



Deep in thought.The Underground's News Editor contemplates the future.

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You can also connect with Canada's Youth Employment Strategy by visiting the Youth Resource Network at **www.youth.gc.ca**

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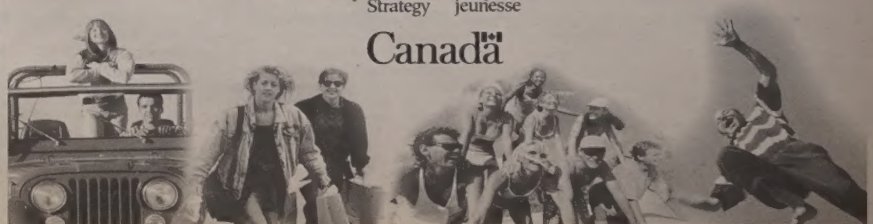
Canada



FEATURES

Journey through Cyberspace

Philip Chia
Features Editor

Yes, this feature is dedicated to Cyberspace. *Eatons* has recently caught up with the advent of computer technology with their recent logo change, which is quite refreshing I must confess. *Microsoft* is well on its way to conquering the world with **Bill Gates** as "king of the world". Very cutthroat behaviour don't you agree? Well, where are you in this picture?

Be you a newbie or a netveteran, the Internet is perennially evolving and the information overload is rather overwhelming. So to make it easier for you, I will hold you by the hand and guide you through this phenomenon known as the World Wide Web.

Browsers

For optimal surfing and to avoid being information highway roadkill, download yourself the latest versions of the two most used browsers on the Net. You have the option of either **Microsoft Internet Explorer 4** or **Netscape Communicator**, with Netscape **Navigator** being its predecessor. Both are excellent browsers with enhanced downloading capabilities, novel accessories, and an accompanying e-mail plug-in, **Microsoft Outlook Express** and **Netscape Messenger** respectively. Microsoft Internet Explorer is arguably the more popular of the two, but as some are biased against Microsoft business tactics, Netscape is a wonderful alternative.

E-mail

Short for Electronic mail, this is by far the most popular feature of the Internet. In most cases you can attain an e-mail address with the purchase of an account from your preferred **Internet Service Provider** (ISP). E-mail accounts are assigned to every U of T student so if you don't have one, contact the computer centre.

E-mail allows you to send mail to anyone, anywhere and anytime in the world at the speed of a New York minute. Retrieving mail is just as easy. Attachments can also be made, so if you have always wanted to send a self-pic to that cutie you have been sizing up to in Chat, e-mail is your best bet.

On many business cards and letterheads today, e-mail is prominently printed alongside one's telephone number. This is an innovative way to save on long-distance charges and avoid monotonous phone conversations.

E-mail also has a considerable impact on the dating world. The next time you want to ask for a number, stop and instead ask to exchange e-mails. Sounds a lot less sleazy and calculated, and it shows you are up-to-date with this fast-paced society of ours.

Emoticons

Since there is no real inflection when you chat with others on the Net, emoticons are used to express feelings and emotions, hence the name **Emoticon**. Here's one for you :O)...which is a smiley face with a bulbous nose if you read it sideways. I'm not very artistically inclined myself, so that is the extent of my emoticon repertoire but there are some very creative ones out there.

A computer generated photograph

Abbreviations are a favourite with the masses. Ever seen "LOL"? It is an acronym for "Laughing out Loud". Use "ROTFL = Rolling on the Floor Laughing", "LMAO = Laughing My Ass Off", and "IMHO = In My Humble Opinion" liberally and you will undoubtedly pass as a netvet.

Another method to express yourself on the Net is to use embracing asterisks or brackets and an expressive word or phrase between them. For instance: Hey baby, you chat on here often? *Bedroom eyes*

Chat

Here is another extremely popular feature on the Net among users. There are many chat rooms on the Net and many people utilise their Internet account solely for e-mail and this feature.

Chatting on the Internet is especially appealing to people because it allows real time conversation with anyone in the world. However, it is less spontaneous than a phone call, which means it actually allows you to think for a moment before you type.

Cybersex is also widespread in the chat rooms and is an excellent way to master the art of one-handed typing *chuckle*. In some chat rooms, along with your nickname, you can also type a profile...try this one on for size: 6'2, 210 lbs, blonde, blue-eyed, muscular build, PhD. Inevitaably, this stud will be bombarded with interesting private chats and propositions.

The anonymity of chat is both a plus and a concern. People switch nicknames constantly, profiles may be just false advertising and the girl you thought you were chatting with can very well turn out to be a girlie boy *smirk*. The upside of this will be that it really expands your imagination and is great for fantasies and experimentation. So, a note of caution from yours truly: Exercise **Caveat Emptor** at all times.

When exchanging e-mails after an engaging chat, be somewhat suspicious of such domains like "**x.yahoo.com**", **hotmail** accounts or **mailexcite** accounts. These e-mail accounts are offered free of charge to anyone on the Internet. Some of the more trusted domains are those that end with "**edu**", short for education, or "**org**", short for organization.

ICQ

This clever little program can be downloaded from the Internet and is an absolute must-have for every aspiring stalker. It alerts you when your friends and acquaintances are online, provides real-time chat (true to its definition where you can actually see your friends typing word for word and deleting their errors), makes file transfers a piece of cake and so on and so forth.

Educational Content

I would argue that the best search engine to use in respects of seeking educational content is **Altavista**. All one needs to do is type in what is being sought, hear the engine rev up and go **Search**. In return, you will be flooded with a list of WebPages that pertain to what you're searching for. Then it's just a matter of sifting through the information and picking what you want.

Adult Content

Ha! I can see you squirming in anticipation. We're all consenting adults yes, so let's be mature adult about this. We all have periods of hmm..."desire", and the Internet is an extremely resourceful tool to satisfy those desires. Beats knitting by the fireplace if you ask me *wink*.

There is an exorbitant amount of smut available on the Net. However, some of the more smuttier sites require an ID that verifies your age and the best and most popular one utilised on the Net is **Adultcheck**. So if you have some residual left over from your OSAP, indulge and purchase an ID from Adultcheck and you have access to more than 14,000 adult websites. Who knows, you might actually start to look forward to those lonely Friday nights :o)

Queer Content

There is an incredible amount of queer content on the Net ranging from personal homepages to queer organizations to queer smut. Avid chatters can find a home at **www.gay.com** where, at any given time, there are a 1000 plus patrons. There is also a whole rainbow of rooms in gay.com. "LockerRoom", "Hot Tub", "College Guys", "Bisexuals", "Transgendered and Friends", "Intellectuals" and the list goes on and on. Anything that rocks your boat can be found there.

Lesbians, fear not, gay.com has a floor exclusively for you and your sister friends :o)

As far as smut is concerned, get yourself a **Zip Drive** and mosey on over to **www.menonthenet.com** and have a field day there.

Building a Webpage

So you are an ambitious webmaster-to-be huh? Well, to walk the walk, you must first talk the talk so you must acquaint yourself with **HTML**, which is **Hypertext**, the language that is used by webmasters to construct WebPages. While you are at it, learn **Java** also. It's all the rage right now within the Internet community.

Geocities offers free WebPages for everyone, but for some of us who are more adventurous, I must note that Geocities has a very strict policy with nudity. So if you want to post those pics of your lover and yourself in the midst of copulation, try somewhere else for a WebPage.

Well, I think I've covered most of the bases. I hope you come out of reading this feature a little bit more educated and wiser. I'm not arrogant enough to actually proclaim myself an Internet guru , but, being an ex-Net Junkie, I feel I'm duly qualified to at least pen a "How-to" guidebook on this particular subject.

The Internet like all things in life should only be consumed in moderation. E-mail and chat to your heart's content, but as soon as such activities start to dominate and interrupt with the regularity of your life, it becomes very disconcerting. There are now such support groups to help with Net Addiction. Net withdrawal is not very pleasant at all.

The Internet with all its nifty features is most alluring and enthralling, so much so that some people have given up on real life social interaction and have opted to solely mingle in the cyberworld. In my opinion, the underlying thread that connects every human being is the innate desire to be connected to or feel connected with others and it is quite ironic that this medium which allows us to connect with so many around the world can also isolate us in our immediate surrounding. Let me share the following phrase with you, which I now swear by: Consume, and not *be* consumed by, the pleasures in life.

You can e-mail your comments, thoughts, and queries to me at achia@sprint.ca and I will respond promptly.

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FEATURES

SAY WHAT???

Philip Chia
Features Editor

Here are a few pick-up lines I picked-up from the Net. I must advise you to use them with caution and preferably when you're somewhat inebriated. I can't imagine anyone sober who will attempt at some of these...

Do you believe in love at first sight, or should I walk by again?
Gee, that's a nice set of legs, what time do they open? (ya right...)
Excuse me, I just noticed you noticing me and I just wanted to give you notice that I noticed you too
Do I know you from somewhere, because I don't recognize you with your clothes on?
Baby, you're so sweet, you put Hershey's outta business.
I feel like Richard Gere, I'm standing next to you, the Pretty Woman.
I think I can die happy now, cause I've just seen a piece of heaven
You are the reason men fall in love. (not bad at all...)
Are you as beautiful on the inside as you are on the outside?
If I had a rose for every time I thought of you, I would be walking through my garden forever.
Are you a parking ticket? (What?) You got fine written all over you.
Hey babe, wanna make an easy fifty bucks? (hmmm...if anyone actually scores using this one, beer's on me)
Want to come see my HARD DRIVE? I promise it isn't 3.5 inches and it ain't floppy.
You make my software turn to hardware
If you were a booger I'd pick you first. (ewwwwww....)
Is your name Pepsi 'cause I've gotta have it.
I'm good at math. U+I=69 (cute..hehe...)
Do you know what'd look good on you? Me.
Help the homeless. Take me home with you.
Hi. You'll do. (beer's on me...)
I wanna floss with your pubic hair. (hmmm...I thought that pubic hair look was way out of vogue)
There are 265 bones in the human body. How'd ya like one more? (ha!)
Yeah, it's big and if you pet it, it spits (how freudian...male preoccupation with size...*shaking head*)

You can check out the full list at http://**www.geocities.com/TimesSquare/Lair/5559/intropickup.html**

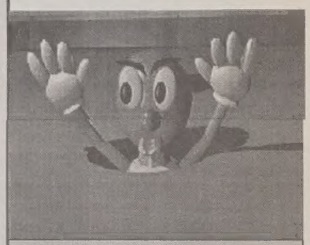
Well, your innocent little features editor has one favourite pick up line that I would love to share with the rest of y'all. It is actually a metaphor from the book Brideshead Revisited by **Evelyn Waugh** and after reading that line I thought that it could very well double as a pick-up line if your delivery is sophisticated and smooth enough. Also, the person you're directing this line to must be somewhat intelligent to actually appreciate the image...so here goes...

Struts across the dancefloor and approaches this magnificent specimen of the human species at the bar...in a sultry voice **Your beauty is as exquisite as a necklace of pearls on a white neck.**

Remember, use your powers only for good :o)

You can access the sites or programs mentioned in the editorial with these addresses:

www.microsoft.com/magazine/
home.netscape.com/index
hesaves.com/icq.html
www.altavista.com
www.adultcheck.com
www.gay.com
www.menonthenet.com
www.geocities.com



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BODY

University of Windsor wants you!

TEAMS HOPE TO ATTRACT TALENTED PLAYERS FROM DETROIT

Mike Van Nie
CUP - WINDSOR

Andre Mixon was a typical American high school football player.

During his senior year of high school, Mixon explored football scholarships at big-time U.S. colleges such as Bringham Young and Western Michigan. But then he made a last-minute decision to embark on a different route than his teammates, many of who were also headed for the football fields of majorAmerican schools.

Mixon came to Canada.

The rookie wide receiver decided to play in the Canadian Inter-university Athletic Union for the University of Windsor - a league and a school his American teammates had probably never heard of.

Mixon's decision stands in stark contrast to the usual direction of cross-border athletic talent.

Each year, American college recruiters swoop into Canada, hand-pick its best high school student athletes, and entice them to American schools with scholarship offers Canadian universities can't even begin to compete with.

But few American student athletes ever consider pursuing an education in Canada - and the University of Windsor wants to change that.

It's trying to convince high school athletes in the Detroit area to consider playing in the CIAU.

"It could be a terrific avenue for us, with such a large number of athletes not far away," said Dr. Joanne MacLean, athletic director for the U of W.

Mike Morencie, head coach of the university's football team, says the push to recruit Detroit-area players will increase in coming years.

"It is something we really want to pursue," said Morencie, who recruited Mixon last year. "We're an unknown entity to them, but we want to try to advance this thing as well as we can."

Located at the foot of the bridge connecting Windsor and Detroit, the U of W has an advantage over other Canadian universities that may be looking to recruit American college athletes. Students who live in Detroit can drive to the U of W campus faster than those who live in Windsor.

The university also hopes it may attract student athletes with potential who've been wrongfully passed up by the American college circuit. "So many kids over there fall through the cracks," Morencie said.

"We hope to be a safety net for them, to catch the kids that fall through."

Still, strict regulations about team composition mean U of W teams aren't about to become dominated by American players. CIAU regulations, for example, prevent men's basketball from having more than three non-Canadian citizens on a team.

And athletes with star-potential aren't the only students the U of W is hoping to win over from Motortown and other nearby American cities, including those in nearby Ohio.

It's also making an effort to promote the university to American students in general - a task that's not so hard given the low Canadian dollar and the fact Ontario tuition is cheaper than in the U.S.

Last year, in a bid to increase American enrollment, the university implemented a special tuition fee of $5,000 (Canadian) for American students. Other non-Canadian U of W students usually pay double that.

Mixon, who commutes to school from his home in Detroit, says the chance to attend a school close to home coupled with lower tuition were the main factors in his decision to play football for a Canadian university team.

But convincing other American athletes to make the same decision won't be easy, he cautions. "With so many colleges available to chose from in the U.S., it will be hard to convince them not to stay home."

write for body

Volume 18, Issue 3

SOUL

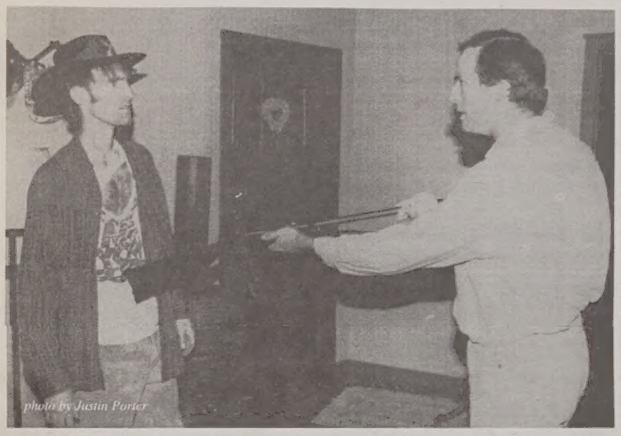


photo by Justin Porter

Who poured cold water on me? (A Review of *The Melville Boys*)

Hannah Parsons
Contributor

The recent *Althea* production of **The Melville Boys,** directed by H. Will Van der Zyl at Leigha Lee Browne Theatre, suffers from a tap water quandry; it is child safety hot because of too many luke warm tendencies.

The Melville Boys, written by **Norm Foster**, is the story of two ordinary brothers going to their uncle's cabin for a weekend of ordinary activities such as fishing and beer drinking. Basically an extension of their ordinary lives. Two sisters come along and add their ordinary lives to the mix. Oh yes and one of the brothers is dying. This meant that the actors had to build from ordinary dialogue to make the play interesting. And **Victoria Sterioff** who plays one of the sisters (Mary) met this challenge. Her mannerisms and inflections of a small town, good and decent girl were nail on head. Also strong was **Ian McLeod** (as the younger brother, Owen) who was consistently comedic and charming.

"The Melville Boys, written by Norm Foster, is the story of two ordinary brothers going to their uncle's cabin for a weekend of ordinary activities such as fishing and beer drinking."

Cold water was poured onto the play by the unfortunate pairing of Sterioff and **C. Sean Hunt** (Lee, the older brother) in key scenes. Hunt, with his peach fuzz cheeks, couldn't pull off the role of a mature, married with children man who can't stop taking care of everyone except himself. And **Allison Brandt,** in her smaller role (Loretta), was adequately huffy and selfish, but not that engaging. It would have been wonderful if there were more scenes that paired Sterioff and McLeod for a little more strong with strong.

So run your hands under the Melville Boys water tap. You won't be scalded, but the tempurature just won't be high enough after a while. Dag nabbit.

Playful Paintings and Invisible Men

Aubrey Reeves
Arts Editor

The walls of the Susan Hobbs gallery are lined with a humorous collection of whimsical characters. These comic portraits are the creation of Sandra Meigs, a painter in the Toronto area. Running from September 3rd until October 17 her exhibit is worth seeing, they may just tickle your fancy. Just up the street at Cold City there is another amusing exhibit of still films called Invisible Inc. by Brian Scott. You will be laughing out loud at the escapades of an invisible private investigator showing from Sept. 3rd to 26th.

Sandra's works are all about 18" square painted a flat grey. On each painting two cartoonish eyes peer to the right at the neighbouring portrait. The only major difference between each canvas is the mouths. Some are gaping mouths open in astonishment made from square blocks of orange or brown glued onto the face, while others convey a look of surprise or perplexity with circles of blue or an indent in the surface. It is remarkable how such simple shapes can convey emotions and personality.

Crudely constructed and carelessly painted the canvases are devoid of race or sex; however, they still retain their human quality. Sandra Meigs purposely made them look trashy and cheap rejecting the history of portraiture. Before the creation of the camera, the bourgeois conveyed wealth, possession and power with lavish paintings of themselves and their families. These paintings of fictitious characters turn the convention of portraiture upside-down.

The ideas behind these paintings are intriguing at first; however, they are not overly complex concepts so a whole room of nearly identical paintings is a bit much. You feel like you are being hit over the head with Sandra's ideas.

Invisible Inc. is a series of films displayed as back-lit still frames. They are quite small so careful observation is needed to catch all the subtle visual jokes.

The invisible man is shown by his hat, floating in mid-air and his shoes. If those objects are visible then the viewer must conclude that the man is completely naked in all the scenes. An invisible man is the perfect person to choose private investigation as a career, it would be so easy for him to spy on people. The idea of a private investigator sitting at a desk completely buff while talking to his client is hilarious. The viewer can make believe what he truly looks like, a handsome young guy, an overweight middle-aged man or even a woman.

One of the films shows the invisible man standing on a roadside trying to hitchhike. The futility of this endeavor is immediately obvious; however, he keeps standing there as car after car passes him by. Another has him in his office talking with a client, then spying on someone through venetian blinds with a telephoto camera. An invisible man would not have to hide behind blinds so as not to be seen. An increasing pile of cigarette butts shows the passage of time on the floor.

These two exhibits prove that not all art has to be tediously earnest, humour is a most effective means of conveying ideas. It's refreshing to see two artists who don't take themselves too seriously, even when they are well-established artists in the Canadian art world.

Theatre Without Boundaries

Aubrey Reeves
Arts Editor

Theatre can transcend international borders, touch the heart and inspire. Professor Michal Schonberg hopes that the Prague exchange will accomplish all that and more for the 18 students that are involved with this unique learning experience.

November 9th Professor Jiran and Schmidt from Charles University in the Czech Republic capital will arrive at Scarborough College to do theatre workshops with the selected group of students. They hope to develop skits and scenes regarding the broad subject of gender and the differences or similarities between the sexes. At the same time a group of Czech students will be developing their ideas regarding the same issues.

"Travel is extremely important and Prague has a strong theatre tradition."

Next year in September the Scarborough students will travel to Prague to meet their peers and further expand and combine their ideas. They will also perform *The Taming of the Shrew* for Prague audiences during their two-week voyage.

The following October Scarborough will be host to the Czech students. They will be bringing one of their own theatre productions to the Leila Lee Brown Theater.

Michal Schonberg started his affiliation with Charles University in 1991 when he was invited to go teach a theatre course. Last year he stayed in Prague for 3 months directing Ben Johnson's play *The Alchemist.* He realized that his affiliation was a wonderful opportunity for his students to travel and learn about other cultures; therefore, he began making arrangements for an exchange.

"Travel is extremely important and Prague has a strong theatre tradition," said Prof. Schonberg. Many of the Scarborough students didn't even know where Prague was located. It is a beautiful baroque city that has gone through quite a bit of political turmoil in the past decade. The cultural differences will present varying perspectives on gender issues and theatre. Scarborough is multicultural where as Prague is a mostly homogenous population and a less liberal society than our own.

The exchange will offer many challenges to both students and teachers. Language barriers will provide an opportunity to break attachments with verbal communication pushing the expression into other forms of communication. The Scarborough teachers will be exposed to new teaching methods from their Prague colleagues.

Rae Gibson, a student participating in the exchange is very excited with the endeavor. "The workshops will be very interesting, we will be combining so many different talents and we will have to find ways to break the language and distant barriers."

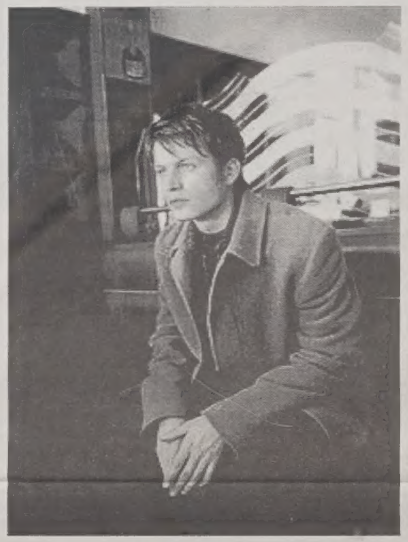
The Avant-Garde Male

THE BASICS

Charles Mitchell
Staff

The Avant-Garde Male is a weekly column about men's style and about what's important in making a man look not only good, but successful and self-confident as well. This feature will deal almost exclusively with what the contemporary man should be wearing (and not wearing); it will also occasionally look at other issues like skin care, exercise and haircare. The Avant-Garde Male will also be open to questions from the Scarborough Campus population. If you have any questions related to men's fashion please e-mail them, care of avantgardemale@hotmail.com. Now I thought I would start right at the beginning and deal with the basics.

Pants: I once had my tailor restitch the hems on five pair of pants while I waited. I'm very meticulous when it comes to the length of my pants and you should be as well. The way you know your pants are too short is if you're standing or walking and you are able to see your socks. Having pants that are too long or too short can make you look sloppy. At the same time, your pants should be appropriately creased; having pants creased shows attention to detail in your appearance. The crease should run through the middle of the knee so that when you turn sideways, you should be able to see your pants falling right along the crease; if your pants do not, then re-iron them until they do.



Socks: The color of socks and shoes is very important. Since it is still hot out, I will give some advice about something I hate seeing during the summer: black socks with sandals. Do not wear socks with sandals unless they are sport sandals and in that case you should be wearing white gyms socks. Now onto the issue of shoes: white socks are not to be worn with black shoes and black socks are not to be worn with brown shoes. To play it safe, match brown shoes with brown socks and black shoes with black socks. Of course you can play with the color of socks: you can match them to the color of the pants you are wearing, or if you are wearing a suit, try matching the tie color or pattern with the socks.

Textures and Patterns: Do not mix the textures of the fabrics you are wearing. For example, you should not mix pin stripe pants with a striped shirt or a ribbed fabric with a waffle texture.

Colors: Black can be worn all year round; white, however, cannot. While the adage of not wearing white past labour day seems archaic, a better suggestion is not wearing white pants in the winter or white t-shirts once the frost starts blanketing the early morning grass. Don't think that you can only wear one color. The common thing I hear from girls is that their boyfriends only wear blue or only wear black. While all black is always chic, don't be afraid to experiment with color. Try burgundy, browns, or different shades of blue. Furthermore, don't be scared to pair up different colors. For instance, chocolate brown looks great with navy and royal blue, charcoal is fabulous with browns and army green. At the same time, don't think that you can wear every color. I try to stay away from navy. If you're Irish or Nordic or just have very fare skin, stay clear of all black or you'll end up looking like a corpse; on the other hand, all light colors can make you look like an albino.

Next week I will take a look at what is new in men's fashion this fall. Again, if you have any question for me, email me at: avantgardemale @hotmail.com.

CULTURE CORNER

Lisa Fenton
Contributor

The Cultural Affairs Office is pleased to offer the very successful Discount ticket program again this year. For those of you not familiar with the program, we sell tickets to a variety shows downtown at 10% to 50% off the regular ticket prices. We purchase tickets in group blocks and then pass the savings along to you.

To purchase tickets you must become a Cultural Affairs Club Member, with a yearly membership fee of $5.00. Think of it as your passport to savings!

The first show we have tickets available for is:

LES MISERABLES
Friday October 23, 1998
8:00 pm
The Princess of Wales Theatre
Tickets: $20 & $57

Other shows we are offering this year include:

Mozart Concert- Toronto Symphony Orchestra with Jukka- Pekka Saraste, conductor
The Nutcracker- The National Ballet of Canada
The Barber of Seville- The Canadian Opera Company
Xerxes- The Canadian Opera Company
The Stone Angel- The Canadian Stage Company
Il Trovatore- The Canadian Opera Company
Swan Lake- The National Ballet of Canada

If you are interested in purchasing tickets or would like more information please come by R3010 or call the Cultural Affairs Office at 287-7076. Interested in a show, but we aren't offering it? Stop by and let us know, we are always open to suggestions.

ON CAMPUS this Week

Andrew Pyper Reading
11 am
call Cultural Affairs Office for location
Andrew Pyper will be reading from his collection of short stories entitled *Kiss Me*.

The Melville Boys
ALTHEA Productions
The Leigha Lee Browne Theatre
September 24- 26, 8 pm

Yellow Taxi
Exhibition by Gabrielle Israelievitch
The Gallery
until October 9, 1998

The SAC Health & Dental Insurance Plans

THE PLANS

All full-time undergraduates (4 credits or more) are automatically covered under the Accident and Sickness Insurance Plan and the Student Dental Plan.

The Health Plan is based on a pay-direct card system that covers 80% of most curative prescription drugs prescribed by a physician. Your pay-direct drug card will be mailed to you during first semester.

OPTING-OUT

You may opt out of either or both of these plans during the September 14 to October 9 opt-out period. However, In order to opt-out of the Accident & Sickness Insurance plan you must declare that you are already covered under another extended health care plan (not including OHIP or UHIP). Refund cheques will then be mailed to you in the amount $41.45 for the health plan and $70.47 for the dental plan.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT YOUR SAC OFFICE

SAC Scarborough	SAC Erindale	SAC (Downtown)
Rm R-3006	Rm 166 North Building	12 Hart House Circle
During office hours	During office hours	Mon-Fri: 9:30-4:30
(416) 287-7615	(905) 828-5494	(416) 978-4911

HEALTH PLAN COVERAGE

- ✔ Pays 80% of the cost of curative prescription drugs
- ✔ Various accident coverage
- ✔ 12 month plan (Sept. 1 to Aug. 31)
- ✔ Optional family coverage (76.76 + pst)
- ✔ The NEW Pay direct drug card will be mailed directly to you
- ✔ 24 hour coverage

DENTAL PLAN COVERAGE

- ✔ 80% Dental Exam includes diagnosis, treatment plan and x-rays
- ✔ 60% Cleaning and Fluoride treatments
- ✔ 50% fillings, extractions, periodontic work & root canals
- ✔ Optional family coverage (130.50 + pst)
- ✔ Up to $800 per person per year
- ✔ 24 hour coverage

HEALTH/DENTAL PLAN OPT-OUT PERIOD BETWEEN SEPT 14 AND OCT 9

EAR TO THE GROUND

The Mechanics of Marilyn Manson

Tim Soucie
Staff

Marilyn Manson never fails to, at the very least, entertain his growing audiences of nihilists, self-deprecators, manic depressives, and drug addicts. Even "norm life" proponents and Christian fanatics are fascinated by his outrageous performances and startling lyrics. In assembling his latest album, titled *Mechanical Animals* (released last week), Manson's music and image endured dynamic and extreme variations, one might even admit growth.

Mechanical Animals, a techno-glam rock hybrid, is a graduation of sorts for Manson, who now looks more like a back-from-the-dead Mary Tyler Moore than a fallen angel. He has stripped the endless sound effects that ravaged the previous release, *Antichrist Superstar*, and now actually sings instead of hissing or screaming. His lyrics are wrought with his despondent conception of the world's situation, particularly in the opening track where he sings "It's a great big white world/and we are drained of our colours/We used to love ourselves/We used to love one another."

Drug use is a primary theme of the album, obviously on tracks like "The Dope Show," "Coma White," and "I Don't Like the Drugs (But the Drugs Like Me)," and subtly on "Fundamentally Loathsome." Manson also acknowledges his female side by adorning prosthetic breasts for the cover shot, by making several referrals to 'queens,' and by employing the R&B background vocals of **Lynn Davis**, **Nikky Harris**, and **Alexandra Brown**.

Marilyn, complete with prosthetic breasts

But what this recording really delivers is Marilyn Manson's version of the brutal truth. The title itself is a blatant expression of his perception of humanity and the rush of technology. In "Disassociative," he expands, opening the track with "I can tell you what they say in space/That our world is too grey/But when the spirit is so digital/the body acts this way." He also attacks American ideals in "Posthuman" when he sarcastically sings "She wants me to be/Perfect like Kennedy" and "In all of her dreams/she's a saint like Jackie-O." Manson is remarkable in that he can deliver his messages without preaching them, leaving the listener to soak in the almost hypnotic melodies. His sense of humour adds to the album, especially on "I Don't Like the Drugs (But the Drugs Like Me)," a song that ridicules normality by cheerleading "Norm life baby/We're white and oh so hetero and/our sex is missionary."

"The Last Day on Earth" could be the gem on the album with its 80s retro feel, complete with electronic voice-overs. With the new millenium fast approaching, Manson sings "I know its the last day on Earth/We'll be together while the planet dies/I know its the last day on Earth/We'll never say goodbye."

Mechanical Animals is a kick in the stomach, a veritable alarm clock, to those who quietly accept, never bothering to even question the way things are. It is intelligent, artistic, and a fresh addition to a rather ordinary music scene.

Hole Gets Under Your Celebrity Skin

Irini Shehata
Asst. Arts Editor

Courtney Love would like to welcome you into her world of "beautiful garbage," "beautiful dresses," "oceans of angels," and "perfect skin." *Celebrity Skin*, that is. The third and much anticipated album from **Hole** contains some of the most catchy and poppish (not punk!) music of the 90s.

From the opening title track right down to the bass-driven "Petals," this album is definitely the best that the foursome offers. The lyric-writing improved; however, Courtney is still not the brilliant song-writer she claims to be.

Rumours have floated around that **Smashing Pumpkins' Billy Corgan** is the master-mind behind the album, but a look at the credits show Love and the band responsible for most of the work. "Awful" is one of the highlights of the album where Courtney sings "the royalty rate all the girls like you and they sell it out to the girls like you to incorporate little girls."

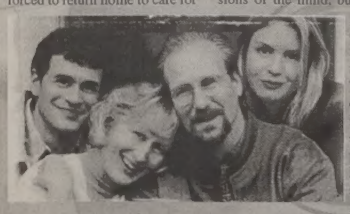
Courtney often sings about herself; therefore, it's rarely boring. The music on "Malibu" and "Northern Star" offers beautiful accompaniment to Love while she poetically expresses still being haunted by the death of her husband Kurt Cobain. The laid-back "Hit So Hard" and "Dying" are other notable tracks. All the musicians showcase their talents on "Reasons To Be Beautiful" and "Use Once & Destroy" which are reminiscent of the harder Hole of not too long ago.

Surprisingly, most of the music is very singable and will definitely stay in your head for a while after listening to it. While only a buzz exists about the possibility of a tour, until there is a confirmation, fulfill your soul with *Celebrity Skin*. Guaranteed, it'll get under your perfect skin.

One True Thing strikes to core

John Angus
Staff

Based on Pulitzer Prize winner Anna Quindlen's novel, *One True Thing* is the story of Ellen Gulden (**Renee Zellweger**), an ambitious young Manhattan journalist who is forced to return home to care for her ill mother.



When she gets home, she finds herself thrown back into her childhood, where every action is nothing more than a rebellious reaction to her parents.

As time passes Ellen realizes that although she has always loved her parents, she has never really known them. Her mother Katherine (**Meryl Streep**) is a happy homemaker, who is quite content knitting, sewing, or crafting of some sort. Whereas her father George (**William Hurt**) is her antithesis — charming, brilliant, and a rather critical professor of literature who is completely enthralled with the passions of the mind, but is quite withdrawn from his family. These contrasting personalities perplex Ellen and she finds it difficult to understand their romance.

Ellen is most like George--cool, intelligent and more interested in her career than the family--causing her to clash with her mother at every step. But now that her family's future hangs in the balance, she must get to know her parents all over again before it's too late, and in doing so she delves into the complexities of their daily existences. Inside her mother's frighteningly domestic life, filled with Christmas tree decorating, cake-baking and ladies' clubs, Ellen discovers an amazingly passionate and strong woman whom she has always underestimated. Meanwhile, deep within her father's genius and success, she exposes secrets and betrayals that reveal his vulnerable humanity.

Projecting gravity and impatience that was lacking in all of her previous screen appearances, Zellweger's portrayal of Ellen is outstanding. Streep is fantastically believable as a woman who has seemingly led her entire life with blinders on, only to demonstrate her awareness and tolerance at the end of her life. Hurt is also entirely credible as the distinguished academic whose life of secrecy and denial is finally disrupted.

The cinematography was delightful, and even though the film's universe was confined to a very small geographic area, dull scene repetition was virtually non-existent.

FAST TALK

Irini Shehata
Asst. Arts Editor

Expect to hear a lot about **Janet Jackson** in the upcoming two weeks. The nipple-pierced musician will be bringing her *Velvet Rope Tour* to the SkyDome on the 29th but before that, she has a live interview at **Much Music** on the 28th. She's also currently on the cover of *Rolling Stone Magazine*...Fans of Canadian rockers **Sloan** can catch them on one of two nights at the Concert Hall here in T.O. on either the 4th or 5th of November. The boys are touring Canada in support of their recently-released album, *Navy Blues...Happy Pills* is the name of the new album from America's **Candlebox**. The foursome have embarked on an eight-week U.S. tour in support of the release with no word yet on the possibility of a Canadian tour...Don't worry **Manic Street Preachers** fans you'll eventually get the band's new album, aimed at a spring of 1999 release, whether it be on import or as a regular release. The band is having trouble getting a distributor in the U.S. and Canada as the new album isn't very radio-playable and the songs themselves are "too down" as an American label rep said. Either way, it will be available although a bit pricier as an import...The remaining members of **Blind Melon** will make their return hopefully by Christmas, though this time in the form of **Mercy**. The boys took some time off after the death of frontman, **Shannon Hoon** who died unexpectedly of a drug overdose but hope to make waves on the music scene once more newly regrouped...Finally, fans of **The Fugees** can look forward to a new album from the award-winning group by or before mid-1999. Until then, soothe yourself with the sweet sounds of the once-again pregnant Fugee **Lauryn Hill**'s solo album, *The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill*...

Janet and her new friends are coming to Toronto

Odds

The Muppet of the Month is the Swedish Chef. Write for Odds or you could be his next meal!

♌ ♍ Real Astrology for an Unreal World ♊ ⏳

Aries March 20- April 19 If I knew all my Aries friends' addresses I would send each a packet of my special Lahggrohbahguirian Pick-Me-Up tea. No, not for drinking before going to a bar, but rather, a "special" blend of five different tea tree leaves that, when consumed together have a great spirit lifting effect. Sorta like Prozac but without the shitty sides effects, like an empty wallet. I mention this because of that bad event which just happened to someone close to you and I can see right through your stoic demeanour to the really worried soul inside who could use a lot of help and advice and a shoulder to lean on for a week or two. That last part is a note to all the other astrological signs—you all have shoulders. Two of them in fact.

Taurus April 20- May 20 I had a Swedish friend who had an amazing ability to see things from many different perspectives. Top, bottom, side, other side, corner, edge, far away, close up, black, white, gray scale, psychedelically ... the list goes on. This ability of his helped him with subjects as diverse as pottery, hostage negotiations, math, and sex.

Gemini May 21- June 20 My Lahggrobahgurian friend came to visit me yesterday. I have not seen him (I use "him' loosely—gender is kinda different on Lahggrobahguiria) since we went camping in Algonquin Park last June. He says he is thinking of retiring from his high-stress, big corporate job back home and opening up a piloting business of his own. I said "Go for it!" The current Gemini situation follows very closely alongside my space-friend's current situation. Sometimes the loss in pay is worth the drop in the frequency of brain aneurysms.

Cancer June 21- July 22 Crabs are crazy little creatures. If they don't be careful and think before they scuttle they'll all end up as tasty shark snacks or as the $12.99 special at Red Lobster. Crabs must learn to think before they speak, act or think again. Your scuttling away from home when things get annoying is only going to cause cracks to appear in your shell. Buy your patience in bulk this week and your common sense by the ton.

Leo July 23-August 22 My fuzzy, widdle, cudwy puddy tat fwiend Weo is awll soft and mooshy inside 'cause they just saw a weelly pweety face walk into their world. However, other external body parts are rapidly stiffening on my Leo friend *(heh heh)*. Yes indeed, Spring Fever is not limited to only the spring season (thankfully). Since there is a beautiful new being in your vicinity, why not expunge the fear that's lodged in your chest and weighing on your shoulders and *say something?*

Virgo August 23-September 22 This week all my Virgo friends will be like Visa Platinum cards: everywhere you want to be. Sounds enticing, eh? The charm, beauty, and great smile bestowed upon you will unlock doors, open windows, cause great service, and turn fortress guards into drooling morons so you can bypass the peasant line, the VIP line, and head straight for the SexyMF line. Work it.

Libra September 23-October 22 You can tell when someone is lying by the look in their eyes. You can tell someone is holding back words they want to say by how fidgety they are. You can tell someone got sex last night by how happy and energized they are the next morning. Unusually chipper is a good description. There is a long protest march winding its way to cross your path. Do you dare risk something of yours for a cause you aren't connected to? Or maybe you are connected to it. Think back to the Throw Rug Theory.

Scorpio October 23-November 21 Can you keep a secret? So can I. You enjoy garnering as many of them as possible, Scorpio. Sort of like poker chips. You hope to cash in on all of them one day, maybe for a large favour, sexual or otherwise. Nothing wrong with being a secret holder, as long as you don't crack from the internal pressure and start leaking out little secret bits. Tupperware can only hold so much. You can advance your causes at work by taking good use and good care of all the tiny hands being held out to you.

Sagittarius November 22-December 21 You will be hearing from old friends this week. Greetings will be arriving at your doorstep in waves and typhoons. Listen to the wind and to Canada Post. Planning ahead is a good habit, however, don't let a lack of planning or prep time hinder your exploration of the world. Spontaneity applies to more than just improv drama and sex. Don't be a stubborn ass this week, like you have been the past four months. I really mean it.

Capricorn December 22-January 19 So, you want to live your life to the fullest, eh? Not an easy task, but well worth the ass-grueling effort. Here are a few tips to my ambitious Sea/Goat friends: I want to know everything—so get yer ass to class and read up. I want to be everywhere—so get your TTC pass and Allostop membership. I want to fuck everyone in the world—hmm, this may be a tough one. Make sure you're safe, stupid. I wanna do something that matters—hmm, from the heart and head.

Aquarius January 20-February 18 "This above all else: know thyself." Once again I am lost as to the speaker of these wise words, but that still does not detract from their importance or impact (or does it?) Your mind seems to be lost in the deep, dark Forest of Insecurity. The poor thing is being tripped up by the Brambles of Timidity, while the painful Branches of Anxiety smack your mind in the face as it passes through. A compass would help but you lost yours a while back. Maybe you'll find a needle in the Haystack of Confusion so you can create a new compass with your fridge magnet. I suggest a pit-stop for your brain before you turn into a catatonic insomniac.

Pisces February 19-March 19 Don't listen to the critical, unimaginative cynics this week who suggest boring, same-old same-old ways of solving your dilemmas. Instead, listen to me the all-knowing, all-seeing, really sexy, intergalactic Vibe seer. The word of the week is *Foot*. Love your feet as you will be on them all week, running your ass off with work, and enjoying the last of the beautiful weather as you stroll through the park. I'll give you a hint as to what the word of the week will be next week: *balance*.